Pilot Project for Presenting soil Subsidence

2387. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAM1;

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experimental pilot project for studying effects of the indigenous methods for preventing soil .subsidence has not been given enough importance; and

(b) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A pilot project was sanctioned in inly 1985 with a cost of Rs. 44.84 lakhs to be carried out at Ramjibanpur (Eas tern Coalfields Ltd.) is under implemen tation for stabilisation of water filled voids. The project involves ap plication of innovative methods. like stowing of sand and water slurry through boreholes and testing the efficacy of these measures by geo-physical methods. A separate project officer has been posted to oversee the implementation of the project since its inception. The prog ress of the project is being regularly mo nitored by Eastern Coalfields Ltd., Cent ral Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd., Asansol-Durgapur Development Au thority, Central Mining Research Station and Department of Coal. Against 24.000 cubic metres of sand stowing, 18,000 cu bic metres has already been achieved. The project is likely to be completed by March, 1988.

Price of News Print

2388. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHAN \ RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of news print in India is the highest in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the duty on spare parts of the news print m chinery is 300 per cent;

I.e.) whether due to the steep escalation in the price of news print and the high duty imposed on spare pails of the machinery the sale prices of news papers have reached the saturation point; and

(d) what steps Government propose to lake to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DE-VELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHA-LAM): (a) Information with regard to the prevailing price of newsprint in the various countries of the world is not being maintained. Hence, no comparison of the price of -newsprint in the country with that of other countries of world is possible.

(b) General Machinery parts which, formally fall under Customs Tariff Heading 98.06, attract total customs duty of 90 per cent *ad valorem.*

(c) Although the price of imported newsprint supplied through the State Trading Corporation of India has gone up in recent months the prices of indi genous newsprint have remained unchang ed since Jan., 1986. The recent in crease in the price of some of the news papers cannot be attributed only to the price of ncus prim of the duty imposed on spare parts of the ma-chinery. It will also be difficult to that the prices of newspapers reached a saturation point. If the demand for newsprint is taken as an indicator, the circulation of newspapers has increased.

(d) Does not arise.

Tieup for Gas Turbine Projects

2389. SHRI GAY A CHAND BHU-YAN: Will 'he Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has asked 3 foreign parities for ite-up for the Gas Turbine Project;